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Identical letters dated 27 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter that represents the position of the Syrian Arab Republic in respect of the eleventh semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council before the date of discussion of this report by the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 27 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic cannot accept that the Secretary-General's reports on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) should continue to refer to the Syrian Arab Republic because it has fulfilled all obligations incumbent on it under that resolution, as indicated in the Secretary-General's eleventh semi-annual report and the preceding reports.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic deplores the observations contained in the report regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and Lebanon and the delineation of their border. Those are strictly bilateral matters that concern only the two countries involved. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that it is most solicitous of Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

3. The aim of repeated mention of border delineation in the reports of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General is to provoke problems between the two fraternal countries. It should be noted that the United Nations is supposed to help resolve such problems, should they in fact exist.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects the report's allegations that the arms embargo is being violated: the report itself indicates that the United Nations does not have the means to verify those allegations. The Prime Minister of Lebanon confirmed that reports of arms smuggling were inaccurate, likening them to the allegations concerning Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The Lebanese Minister of Defence and the Commander of the Lebanese Army have also denied those allegations.

5. If the person responsible for preparing this report was truly concerned about Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial independence, he should first address Israel's daily violation of Lebanese sovereignty by land, sea and air, which it commits in full view of the world, before turning his attention to allegations and false information. He should also bring effective pressure to bear on Israel to withdraw from the Lebanese territory it continues to occupy and to cease its violations. Otherwise, talk of respect for Lebanon's sovereignty serves as a mere fig leaf for the violation of that sovereignty, as well as a sign of disrespect for the elected Government of Lebanon and an invitation to undermine Lebanese-Syrian relations.

6. The report refers to the fact that the President of the Syrian Arab Republic had hosted in Damascus the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretary-General of Hizbullah. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that this constitutes unacceptable interference in Syria's internal affairs and its foreign relations inasmuch as those are sovereign matters that do not concern the United Nations. We further believe that meetings that take place in Syria do not fall within the scope of resolution 1559 (2004).

7. United Nations officials responsible for following up implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) must respect the limits of their mandate. It is unacceptable that they should expand that mandate beyond monitoring implementation of the resolution to include the assessment of States' policies and bilateral relations. We

believe that the Security Council and the Secretariat have a responsibility to hold those officials accountable for this serious breach.

8. It is surprising that the United Nations should choose to follow up certain resolutions and to ignore other resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the attainment of just and comprehensive peace in the region, and that it should adopt the Israeli position in that regard.

9. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the instability of the region is caused by the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. If the representatives of the Secretariat are truly concerned with the stability of the region, they should take an impartial and serious approach when informing the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, of the crimes that Israel commits in full view of Member States and certain Security Council members.